

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 511
By Wallace

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ila Morgan Gooch.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Ila Morgan Gooch of White Pine, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of McDowell County, North Carolina, Mrs. Gooch passed from this life to a far better existence on Easter Sunday, April 7, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gooch was a Christian daughter of the South, a devout Southern Baptist, a staunch Democrat, and in the truest and best sense of the term, a Steel Magnolia; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gooch was a lady who always conducted herself with grace, charm and dignity; and

WHEREAS, she learned at an early age, and instilled in others for 74 years, that the three most important things in life are a simple but strong faith in God; family; and that your word must always be your bond; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gooch's family and friends appreciated and were inspired in their daily lives by her many admirable personal attributes; and

WHEREAS, she held an unwavering commitment to justice and fair play, and she was intensely loyal to her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, she had an abiding love of nature and all God's creatures, and her robust faith and courage inspired her to persevere and flourish during days of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gooch passionately believed that government and the law should be a voice for those who had no advocate; a force for positive change and equal opportunity in our

society; a provider of basic services, such as shelter, food, and health care; and a champion for our most vulnerable citizens to defend them against economic exploitation; and

WHEREAS, she also possessed the uncommon ability to love people unconditionally, regardless of their station in life; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principle for her Christian pilgrimage and the philosophical foundation for her political affiliation was the teaching of Christ in the 25th Chapter of Matthew, which she exemplified throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gooch lived and practiced true family values every day as a loving wife to her husband of 56 years, H. L. (Dick) Gooch, Jr.; she was a devoted mother to Warren Gooch and his wife, Judy; a wonderful grandmother to Ryan and Matt Good; and a loyal aunt to her many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, she was a loyal member of First Baptist Church of White Pine, where she taught in the Children's Department for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ila Morgan Gooch exemplified the spirit, compassion and humanity that is characteristic of a true Tennessean, and her life of purpose and commitment should be appropriately commemorated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of Ila Morgan Gooch, reflecting fondly upon her indelible legacy of Christian service to her fellow human beings and her commitment to leading the examined life with liberality, courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express sympathy and extend our condolences to her family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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